

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method of playing a live casino card game with a bonus game component comprising:
  - 5 a player making a wager to play in the live casino card game and placing an optional side bet bonus wager on the bonus game component;
  - a first number of cards are dealt to a bonus hand position;
  - a second number of cards are dealt to the player,
  - when the player hand has at least a predetermined winning arrangement of cards,
- 10 the player attains at least a first bonus amount level on the player's placed optional side bet bonus wager;
- when the player has a winning arrangement of cards and the first number of cards has at least a winning arrangement of cards, enhancing the first bonus amount level attained by the player.

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2. The method of claim 1, and further comprising a third number of cards dealt to the dealer, wherein the first number of cards, the second number of cards and the third number of cards are a same number of cards.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein the live casino card game is a poker-type game wherein the player must place at least the ante bet and a first bonus bet to be able to place the optional side bet bonus wager.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first number of cards comprises the first cards dealt in the game.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the first number of cards comprises cards dealt to the bonus hand position after at least one second number of cards has been dealt to a player.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the at least a predetermined poker hand rank for the player hand is at least a flush.
- 5 7. The method of claim 3 wherein the at least a predetermined poker hand rank for the bonus hand is at least a specified pair.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the at least a predetermined poker hand rank for the bonus hand is at least a specified pair.
- 10 9. A method of playing a casino table poker-type card game wherein a bonus hand, a dealer's hand and a player's hand are dealt,  
wherein the player plays against the dealer's hand for rank and the player may have a bonus award to be paid on the player's hand enhanced by a predetermined rank being present in the bonus hand.
- 15 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the player a) plays against the dealer's hand for rank and b) the player may have a bonus award to be paid on the player's hand against a pay table, wherein the bonus award in b) can be enhanced by a predetermined rank being present in the bonus hand.
- 20 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the player first becomes aware of the bonus award to be paid on the player's hand before the player can become aware that the bonus award to be paid is enhanced by the bonus hand.
- 25 12. The method of claim 9 wherein the player first becomes aware of the bonus award to be paid on the player's hand before the player can become aware that the bonus award to be paid is enhanced by the bonus hand.

13. The method of claim 2, wherein the live casino card game is a poker-type game.
14. the method of claim 13, wherein a number of cards in the player hand, dealer hand and bonus hand are equal and are selected from the group consisting of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 cards.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the live casino card game is selected from the group consisting of THREE CARD POKER® card game LET IT RIDE® card game and Blackjack.
16. The method of claim 1 wherein the first number of cards in the bonus hand position are cards specific to play in the bonus event only and bonus hand position cards are not used in the play of the live casino table card game.
17. The method of claim 3 wherein the first number of cards in the bonus hand position are cards specific to play in the bonus event only and bonus hand position cards are not used in the play of the live casino table card game.
18. The method of claim 1 wherein the first number of cards in the bonus hand position are cards specific to play in the bonus event only and player hand rank need not exceed bonus hand rank for the player to receive an enhanced bonus amount.
19. The method of claim 3 wherein the first number of cards in the bonus hand position are cards specific to play in the bonus event only and player hand rank need not exceed bonus hand rank for the player to receive an enhanced bonus amount.